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16 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. The following events related to the 1948 "Bogota Incident" may be of interest.

23 March 1948. CIA gets dispatch saying there would be attempts to humiliate the U.S. at the Bogota meeting and might be personal molestation of Secretary Marshall.

30 March 1948. Ninth International Conference of American Republics met in Bogota. Ten days without incident followed.

9 April. Jorge Gaitan assassinated; wide-spread riots.

10 April. Representative Clarence Brown quoted in press to effect that there should be an investigation of CIA; surely if CIA had told State, Marshall would not have gone.

13 April. Thomas Dewey (running for office at the time) was critical of CIA in NEW YORK TIMES, saying this never would have happened if the fine FBI intelligence system in Latin America had not been destroyed in favor of CIA.

15 April. Admiral Hillenkoetter summoned before House subcommittee. Hillenkoetter explained that his first thought had been to take the 23 March dispatch to Undersecretary Lovett but had been dissuaded because Orion J. Libert, State advance agent in Columbia with concurrence of Ambassador Willard L. Beaulac had decided Marshall should not be unnecessarily alarmed.

16 April. President Truman expressed himself (NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE) as being as surprised as anyone else; White House had not been expecting the kind of developments that had occurred.

19 April. Admiral Zacharias said in press that CIA lacked competent personnel; offered personally to set U.S. intelligence right.

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20 April. Walter Lippmann criticized Hillenkoetter for not warning of coming events in Bogota.

26 April. Representative Brown, who had apologized to Hillenkoetter privately, exonerated him publicly. (NEWSWEEK, April 26, 1948)

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Assistant to the Director

cc: DDCI
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